

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS STATE 220952

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC,SCUL,SN

SUBJECT: HIPPOPOTAMUS FOR SINGAPORE ZOO

REFERENCE: SINGAPORE 3980

1. SUSIE, 8 MONTH OLD HIPPO, SCHEDULED DEPART WASHINGTON FOR SINGAPORE ABOUT SEPTEMBER 15 ACCOMPANIED BY WILLIAM XANTEN, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK (NZP) CURATOR OF MAMMALS. WILL CONFIRM EXACT TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS PRIOR DEPARTURE.

2. NZP DIRECTOR THEODORE REED HAS FORWARDED TO DR. ONG SWEE LAW, CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, A PRESENTATION LETTER FROM SMITHSONIAN SECRETARY S. DILLON RIPLEY. DR. LAW PLANS USE LETTER TO PREPARE PUBLICITY REGARDING GIFT. TEXT OF LETTER IS AS FOLLOWS: "DEAR DR. LAW: IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE AS SECRETARY OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION TO PRESENT TO THE SINGAPORE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS AND TO THE CHILDREN OF SINGAPORE, SUSIE, THE NILE HIPPOPOTAMUS. ALL OF UNCLASSIFIED

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US AT THE SMITHSONIAN HOPE SHE WILL PROVIDE MANY HAPPY HOURS

OF ENJOYMENT AND EDUCATION FOR YOUR VISITORS. IN THIS TIME
OF INCREASED DESTRUCTION OF NATURAL HABITAT AND DIMINISHING
POPULATION OF WILD ANIMALS, AS WELL AS INCREASED HUMAN

URBANIZATION, IT BECOMES MORE AND MORE IMPORTANT THAT
PEOPLE, AND ESPECIALLY CHILDREN, HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO VIEW, STUDY, AND ENJOY THE WONDERS OF ANIMAL LIFE IN
THE ATMOSPHERE OF A WELL MANAGED ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN SUCH AS
YOURS. A PROPERLY MANAGED ZOO IS NOT ONLY A SOURCE OF
RECREATION BUT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EDUCATION. NOWADAYS THE
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, AND SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES OF ZOOS
ARE SINGLY MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE RECREATIONAL FUNCTION.
WITHOUT DECRYING THE NEED OF PEOPLE EVERYWHERE TO RELAX
AND ENJOY THEMSELVES, THE ANIMALS NEED OUR UNDERSTANDING
IF THEY ARE GOING TO SURVIVE. IN A ZOO THERE IS THE
OPPORTUNITY FOR MANY THOUSANDS OF VISITORS TO LEARN TO
APPRECIATE THE GLORIES OF THE LIVING WORLD AND HOPEFULLY
TO LEARN TO LOVE AND PROTECT ALL LIVING CREATURES.
YOUNG SUSIE WAS BORN JANUARY 1975 AT THE NATIONAL ZOO-
LOGICAL PARK WHICH IS A BUREAU OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITU-
TION. SHE WAS ATTENDED BY HER MOTHER, "ARUSHA", UNDER
THE WATCHFUL EYE OF HER FATHER "JOE SMITH". NOW THAT
SHE IS WEANED SHE IS READY TO ASSUME HER ROLE AS A
LIVING SYMBOL OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND THE
UNITED STATES. WE AT THE SMITHSONIAN FOR MANY YEARS HAVE
HAD A MOST FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SCIENTIFIC AND
EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITIES OF SINGAPORE, PARTICULARLY THE
MUSEUMS AND BOTANICAL GARDENS. I AM SURE THIS IS THE
BEGINNING OF COOPERATION BETWEEN SINGAPORE ZOOLOGICAL
GARDENS AND THE NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK. WE WERE
PARTICULARLY HAPPY TO HAVE HAD MR. BENJAMIN HARRISON,
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AND CURATOR OF YOUR ZOO, SPEND A FEW
DAYS WITH US EXCHANGING IDEAS ON ANIMAL MANAGEMENT. MR.
WILLIAM XANTEN, OUR CURATOR OF LARGE MAMMALS, WILL LEARN
MUCH FROM HIS VISIT TO SINGAPORE. THE STAFFS OF THE TWO
ZOOS WILL BENEFIT EACH OTHER BY SHARING THE UNIQUE SITUA-
TIONS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS. PERSONALLY,
I HAVE HAPPY MEMORIES OF SINGAPORE EXTENDING OVER MANY
YEARS. I KNOW SUSIE WILL ENJOY THE WARM HOSPITALITY
AS WELL AS THE SALUBRIOUS CLIMATE OF SINGAPORE. WE ALSO
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HOPE THAT AS SHE GROWS OLDER SHE WILL KEEP HER PROSPEC-
TIVE MATE FROM HIS WANDERING TENDENCIES. AS YOU KNOW
HIS ROAMING REPUTATION HAS CIRCLED THE GLOBE. SINCERELY
YOURS, S. DILLON RIPLEY, SECRETARY". EMBASSY MAY WISH
PROVIDE DR. LAW WITH CABLE TEXT SHOULD RECEIPT OF
ORIGINAL LETTER BE DELAYED. ROBINSON

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